(b) if so, the details of the proposals and those cleared so far;

(c) whether any efforts are under way to promote direct foreign investment in the leather industry; and

(d) if so, with what success and the proposals cleared so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT) WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (DEPARTMENT OF HEAVY INDUSTRY) (SHRIMATI KRISHNA SAHI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) A Statement is attached.

Statement

The Council for Leather Exports (CLE), Madras, has initiated a programme to promote joint ventures in leather industry in India. The Council organised a seminar on 'Investment opportunities in the Leather Sector in India' during India-International Leather Fair held in Madras on 1.2.93 which was attended to by foreign buyers/delegates and provided opportunity for Indian entrepreneurs to interact with foreign delegates, particularly from thrust markets. The Seminars also provided an opportunity for foreign business people interested in investment in leather products industry in India to have face-to-face dialogues with Indian counterparts interested in such collaboration. The Council has received feedback from those foreign firms which attended the Council's programme that they are extremely satisfied with the pace of developments in the country and with the discussions they had with individual Indian companies. The Council expects that business foreign collaborations will be on the increase and some of these contacts may ultimately lead to joint ventures with direct foreign investments. The Council have focussed their attention on selected countries, viz. Germany, USA, Italy, South Korea and Australia.

Seminar on the problems of small scale sector

2988. SHRI KAMAL MORARKA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a seminar was conducted recently to discuss the problems faced by small scale units in competition with large sector;

(b) if so, the issues discussed and the conclusions arrived at;

(c) whether Government propose to take any steps to protect and develop small scale units in the wake of new economic policy; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (DEPARTMENT OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES) (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) No Seminar has been conducted under the auspices of the Government.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) The steps taken to protect and develop small scale units in the wake of new economic policy relate to reservation of items for exclusive manufacture, reservation of items for purchase, price preference in purchase from the small scale sector, enhancement in the investment limit of plant and machinery in respect of tiny units from Rs. 2 lacs to Rs. 5 lacs, inclusion of business and industry related services as tiny units, modification in definition of women enterprises, simplification of rules and procedures regarding registration, disbanding of certain committees which existed earlier issuance of Ordinance entitled "The interest on Delayed Payments to Small Scale and Ancillary Industrial Undertakings Ordinance, 1992", Equity Participation by other Industrial Undertakings in

SSI Units upto 24 per cent. The other policy measures which are under formulation relate to Limited Partnership Act, Integrated Infrastructural Development Scheme for small scale units in rural and backward areas, package for tiny sector, etc.

Joint Venture between Du Pont and Thapar Group

2989. SHRI B. K. HARIPRASAD: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the tie-up proposal between Du Pont of USA and Thapar Group for manufacture of Nylon 66 and Spandex Fibres is yet to be given clearance even after a delay of many years;

(b) whether Government's attention has been drawn to recent press reports that Du Pont is backing up from the venture alleging discrimination and cost overruns from Rs. 180 crores to Rs. 500 crores; and

(c) whether Du-Ponts backing out would dampen the enthusiasm of new investors coming our way under the liberalised economic policy?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) No, Sir.

(b) The company has informed that M/s Thapar and M/s Du Pont are fully committed to the project.

(c) Does not arise.

Clearance to foreign investors

2990. SHRI B. K. HARIPRASAD: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have given clearance to the multinational fastfood chain Mc Burger (Mc Donald) of USA to set up shops in India;

(b) if so, whether Government would also consider clearing such proposals as coming from foreign investors in the priority core sector with equal efficiency; and

(c) whether Government would consider restricting foreign investments only to priority|core sectors?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRAL DEVELOPMENT) WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (DEPARTMENT OF HEAVY INDUSTRY) (SHRIMATI KRISHNA SAHI): (a) M/s McDonald's Corporation, USA have been given approval on 15th February, 1993 to set up a wholly owned subsidiary in India, for setting up McDonald's restaurants.

(b) and (c) Approvals for direct foreign investment upto 51 per cent foreign equity in high priority industries listed in Annex-III of the New Industrial Policy are issued by the Reserve Bank of India within a period of two weeks.

Other foreign investment proposals, including proposals for foreign investment in non-Annex-III areas are also considered and cleared on merit by the Government generally within a period of 45 days.

2291. [*Transferred to 26th March*, 1993]

1992. [*Transferred to 24th March*, 1993]

2993. [*Transferred to 20th March*, 1993]

Representation of women in decision making bodies

2994. SHRI BISHAMBHAR NATH PANDE:

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleasd to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Women entrepreneurs have demanded effective representation in various official decision-making bodies in or-